

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, KS

SUBJECT: KIM YONG-SAM'S INDICTMENT LEADS TO STRAINS IN NDP

REF: SEOUL 7031 (DTG 09096Z SEP 75)

1. AT SIX P.M. SEPTEMBER 10, PAK KWAN-HUM, CHIEF SECRETARY TO NDP LEADER KIM YONG-SAM WAS ARRESTED AND TAKEN IN HANDCUFFS TO CIVIL PRISON WHERE PAPERWORK WAS COMPLETED FOR HIS DETENTION UNDER EMERGENCY MEASURE 9. GROUNDS FOR ARREST WERE THAT HE HAD HELPED PREPARE KIM YONG-SAM'S PRESS STATEMENT WHICH CALLED INTER-ALIA FOR AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION AND REPEAL OF EM-9. AT SEVEN PM, PAK WAS INEXPLICABLY RELEASED FROM PRISON.

2. KIM YONG-SAM AND NDP ASSEMBLY WHO ATTENDED AMBASSADOR'S RECEPTION FOR DEPARTING POLITICAL COUNSELOR SAME EVENING WERE HIGHLY AGITATED BY THE ARREST OF KIM'S SECRETARY. ASKED BY DCM WHAT HE INTENDED TO DO ABOUT SECOND SUMMONS HE HAD RECEIVED FROM PROSECUTOR, KIM YONG-SAM REPLIED "I JUST DON'T KNOW."

3. PROBLEM OF HOW TO DEAL WITH SUMMONS TO NDP PRES. KIM
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IS PRODUCING STRAINS WITHIN THE NDP. VICE SPEAKER YI CHOL-SONG WHO IS KIM'S MAJOR RIVAL FOR LEADERSHIP WITHIN THE PARTY, TOLD DCM THAT HE AND KO HUNG-MUN HAD ATTACKED KIM AT MEETING OF PARTY LEADERS FOR HIS PAST UNILATERAL

ACTIONS AND FOR HIS FAILURE TO ACCEPT ADVICE OF PARTY LEADERS. YI SAID THAT WITHOUT ANY CONSULTATION OF ADVICE FROM PARTY LEADERSHIP, KIM HAD AGREED TO CONFER WITH PRESIDENT PARK, HAD REPORTED ONLY SKETCHILY ON HIS CONVERSATION WITH THE PRESIDENT, HAD GONE OFF ON HIS SOUTHEAST ASIA TRIP WITH OBVIOUS GOVERNMENT APPROVAL, HAD MADE STATEMENTS DURING THE TRIP ABOUT WHICH HE HAD NOT CONSULTED THE PARTY LEADERS, AND NOW MADE FURTHER STATEMENTS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER HIS RETURN THAT LEAD TO SUMMONS, ALL OF WHICH PLACED HIM AND THE NDP IN JEOPARDY. YI DID NOT GO SO FAR AS TO SAY THAT HE OR ANYONE ELSE WOULD CHALLENGE KIM'S PRESIDENCY OVER THIS AFFAIR BUT HE WAS CLEARLY UPSET ABOUT THE SITUATION.

4. WITH RESPECT TO STRATEGY FOR DEALING WITH THE SUMMONS, CERTAIN HARDLIND SEGMENTS OF THE DNDP ARE SUPPORTING KIM'S REFUSAL TO RESPOND ON THE BASIS THAT HE HAS EXPRESSED HIS POLITICAL VIEWS AND THERE IS NOTHING MORE TO SAY. OTHERS HOLD THE VIEW THAT HE SHOULD PRESENT HIMSELF TO THE PROSECUTOR AND RESTATE HIS VIEWS THERE. AT THIS POINT, THE HARD-LINE POSITION OF NOT RESPONDING TO SUMMONS HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE POLITICAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF THE NDP AND SEEMS TO BE THE PREVAILING STRATEGY. HOWEVER, THIS POSITION COULD CHANGE RAPIDLY IF GOVERNMENT DECIDES TO GET TOUGH. NDP ASSEMBLYMEN ARE NOW HEAVILY INVOLVED IN MEETINGS TO PREPARE FOR SESSION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SLATED TO BEGIN LATER THIS MONTH.

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